

Grapplers get 'slammed' in Stuttgart

German, American wrestlers square off on Patch Barracks

Story & photos
by Hugh C. McBride

Wrestlers from throughout U.S. Army, Europe, converged on Patch Barracks Nov. 22 to put their skills to the test against fellow American grapplers as well as a contingent of German competitors.

"Stuttgart Slam 2003" pitted nine teams (seven comprised of U.S. identification cardholders and two German squads) against each other in a daylong series of freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling.

Freestyle wrestling is the "traditional" type of amateur wrestling most popular in the United States. Greco-Roman wrestling bars competitors from using their legs to obtain a fall or holding their opponent below the waist.

"This was a great event," said Bryant Searcy, the 6th Area Support Group's Sports and Fitness director.

Stuttgart's team placed fourth overall and second among the U.S. teams.

The Stallions were led by Russ Barnum, who placed second in the heavyweight division in both the freestyle and Greco-Roman categories.

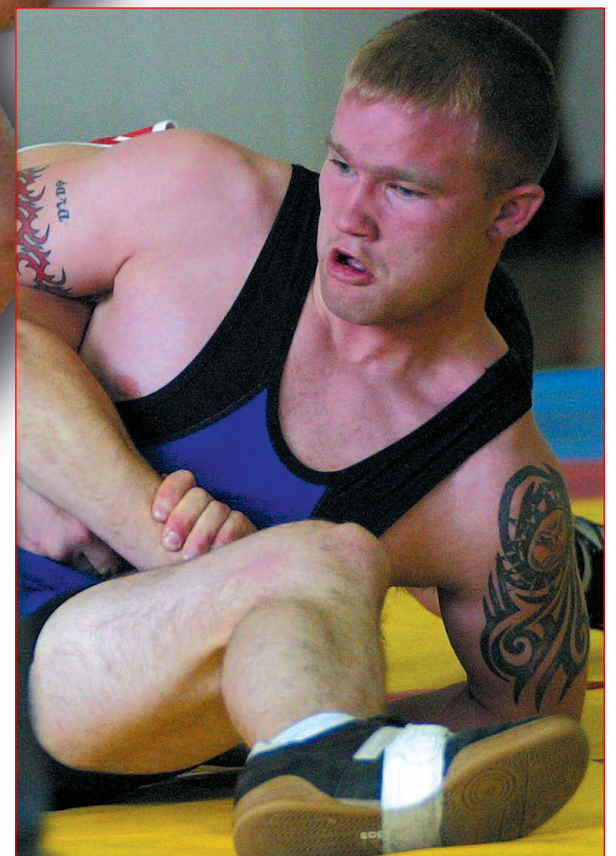
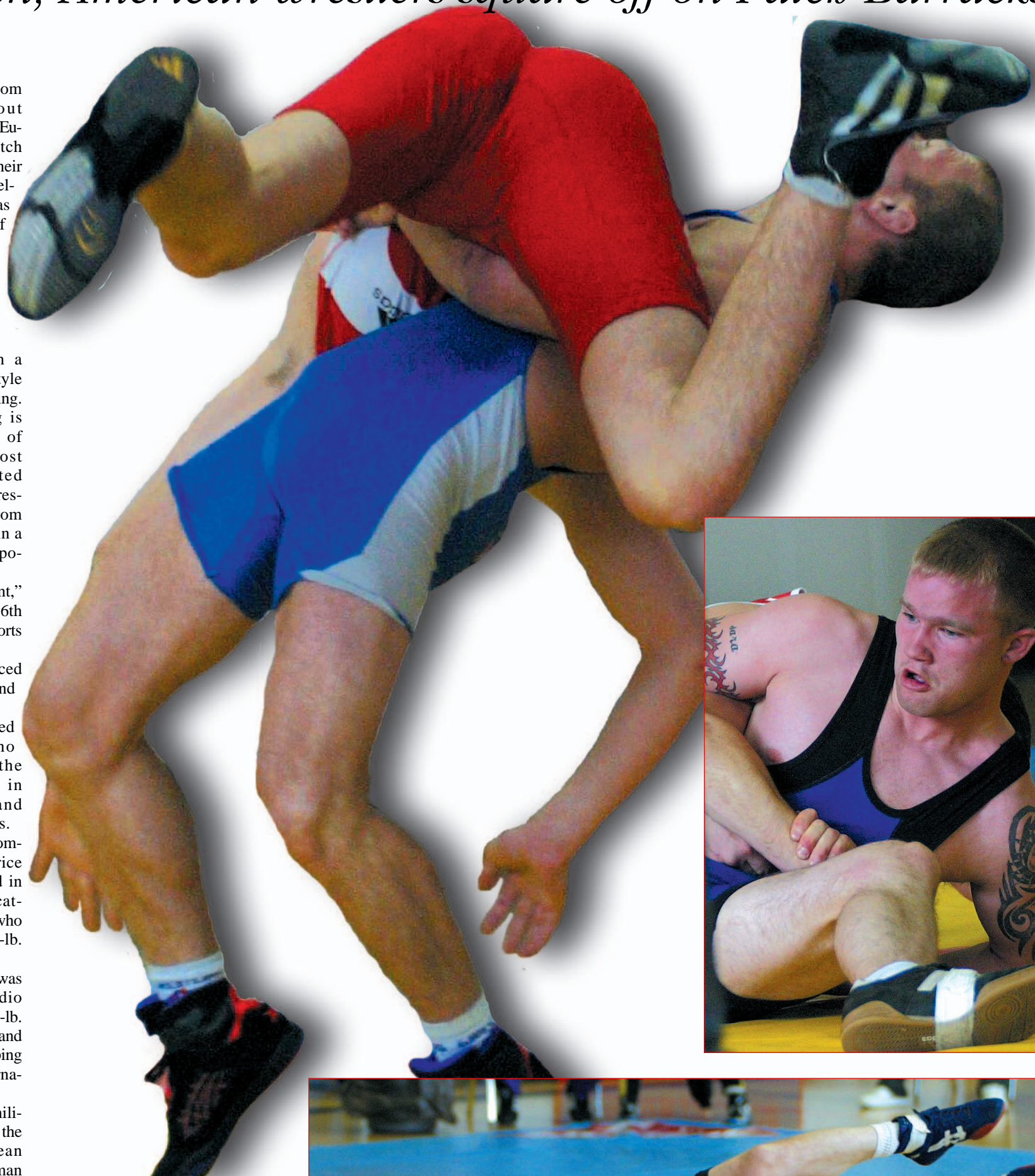
Other notable local competitors included Maurice Evans, who placed third in the 163-lb. freestyle category, and Robert Hicks, who finished third in the 211-lb. freestyle competition.

The top U.S. wrestler was Kaiserslautern's Aridio Peralta, who won the 163-lb. division in both freestyle and Greco-Roman while helping "K-Town" take the tournament's top team honors.

The next event for military-affiliated wrestlers is the U.S. military European freestyle and Greco-Roman championship tournament Dec. 6 and 7 in Würzburg.

For area athletes who prefer to face off in a ring rather than on a mat, the Patch Fitness Center will host the Stuttgart Boxing Invitational Jan. 10. This competition is limited to active-duty military personnel or individuals who belong to a German boxing club.

For more information about sports opportunities in the 6th ASG call 430-4512/civ. 0711-680-5412 or e-mail searcyb@6asg.army.mil.



[Above] German wrestlers Jan Hoffman and Slavomir Biskup get tangled up and airborne during Nov. 22's Stuttgart Slam on Patch Barracks.

[Top Right] Kaiserslautern's Robert Munoz plots his next move during a Greco-Roman match against Hoffman.

[Bottom Right] Bad Aibling's Steve Tingley and Kaiserslautern's Aridio Peralta hit the mat during a 163-lb. match.